

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01
HA-05 /072 W
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P R 111730Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2013
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA
HG AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD

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SUMMARY: ON APRIL 10, THE RED BRIGADES MADE AVAILABLE THEIR FIFTH COMMUNIQUE, ENTITLED "THE TRIAL OF ALDO MORO" AND CONTAINING AN EIGHT-PAGE "CONFESSION" IN MORO'S HANDWRITING. THE TERRORISTS AGAIN MAKE NO DEMANDS AND DENY THAT SECRET NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY. THEY AGAIN USE MORO'S PEN TO APPEAL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS." THE FORM OF MORO'S STATEMENT, AN INDICTMENT OF FORMER
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DC INTERIOR MINISTER TAVIANI, WAS EXPECTED. WHILE OBVIOUSLY THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF THE RED BRIGADES' EFFORT TO PLACE THE DC AND POLITICAL SYSTEM ON TRIAL, MORO'S STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IS ODDLY RAMBLING AND LACKING IN STING. IT CONTAINS NO EMBARRASSING OR SHATTERING REVELATIONS. IT DOES ATTEMPT TO TAR THE US WITH ALLEGATIONS OF TAVIANI'S "DIRECT AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONTACTS" WITH THE US. THE REACTION OF THE POLITICAL
PARTIES (INCLUDING THE PCI) HAS BEEN TO DISMISS
AGAIN MORO'S STATEMENT AS POLITICALLY IRRELEVANT
AND "CLEARLY EXTORTED IN INHUMAN CONDITIONS." END SUMMARY.

1. TWENTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER MORO'S KIDNAPPING BY THE RED
BRIGADES (BR) ON MARCH 16, TELEPHONE CALLS TO NEWSPAPERS
IN ROME, GENOA, MILAN AND TURIN LED TO THE DISCOVERY
OF YET ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE (THE FIFTH) DATED
APRIL 10 AND ENTITLED "THE TRIAL OF ALDO MORO."
THE TERRORIST MESSAGE OF THREE TYPEWRITTEN PAGES ALSO
INCLUDES AN EIGHT-PAGE STATEMENT IN MORO'S HANDWRITING
WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF A DEPOSITION.

2. THE RED BRIGADES AGAIN MAKE NO SPECIFIC DEMANDS
AND INDEED DENY THAT SECRET NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY.
AFFIRMING THAT "NOTHING MUST BE HIDDEN FROM THE PEOPLE,"
THEY PROMISE THAT THE PUBLIC WILL BE AFFORDED A FULL
ACCOUNT OF MORO'S "CONFESSIONS." HOWEVER, SINCE FORMER
INTERIOR MINISTER TAVIANI HAD RECENTLY DENIED THE
ACCURACY OF MORO'S ASSERTION (IN HIS FIRST LETTER TO
INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA) THAT HE HAD URGED TAVIANI
TO ADOPT A LENIENT STANCE IN THE 1974 BR KIDNAPPING
OF GENOA MAGISTRATE SOSSI, THE BR STATE THEY REGARD
IT OPPORTUNE TO MAKE AVAILABLE THAT PORTION OF MORO'S
DECLARATION THAT REGARDS TAVIANI.
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

COMSIXTHFLT
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3. THIS PORTION OF THE MESSAGE IS FOLLOWED BY MORO'S LONG AND RAMBLING INDICTMENT OF TAVIANI (CURRENTLY A NO LONGER POLITICALLY ACTIVE DC SENATOR) FOR POLITICAL DUPLICITY AND OPPORTUNISM. MORO DESCRIBES (ACCURATELY) TAVIANI'S FREQUENT SHIFTS TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT IN DC FACTIONAL POLITICS, BUT HE ATTACK LACKS INCISIVENESS. ALTHOUGH AN UNFLATTERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PICTURE EMERGES OF A POLITICIAN OF SCANT PRINCIPLES, MORO DOES NOT MAKE ANY SHATTERING OR EMBARRASSING ACCUSATIONS. IN HIS CONCLUSION (A POINT THAT THE BR APPARENTLY WANT TO MAKE SINCE THEY ECHO IT IN THEIR OWN STATEMENT), MORO STATES THAT IN TAVIANI'S FORMER CAPACITIES AS DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTERS, "HE HAD DIRECT AND CONFIDENTIAL CONTACTS WITH AMERICA. IS THERE, PERHAPS, IN HIS HOLDING OUT STRONGLY AGAINST ME, SOME AMERICAN OR GERMAN INFLUENCE?"

4. THE CONCLUDING PORTION OF THE BR MESSAGE IS REplete WITH STANDARD CONDEMNATIONS OF THE "IMPERIALIST MULTINATIONAL STATE" AND CALLS FOR THE VICTORY OF THE TURE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISTS. IT THREATENS CONTINUED ATTACKS ON THE DC, CONFINDUSTRIA (INDUSTRY AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION) AND THE "MILITARY APPARATUS." IT ALSO ACCUSES THE BERLINGUER GROUP IN THE PCI OF COLLABORATING WITH THE STATE IN THE RECENT "REPRESSIVE" ROUNDUP OF EXTREME-LEFT ACTIVISTS "IN A COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY WAR AGAINST THE METROPOLITAN PROLETARIAT."

5. GOVERNMENT AND DC LEADERS HAVE SO FAR CHOSEN NOT TO REACT TO THE LATEST BR COMMUNICATION. HOWEVER, "IL POPOLO", THE OFFICIAL DC DAILY, SET THE TONE FOR THE GENERAL POLITICAL REACTION BY DISMISSING MORO'S STATEMENT AS HAVING BEEN "CLEARLY EXTORTED IN INHUMAN CONDITIONS." MORO, THE DC DAILY OBSERVED, IS OBVIOUSLY BEING SUBJECTED TO A "PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY UNSUPPORTABLE TRIAL." THE PCI DAILY, "L'UNITA", CALLED THE BR MESSAGE "NAUSEATING" AND EVIDENCE THAT MORO IS BEING FORCED TO PARTICIPATE IN A "LUGUBRIOUS RITUAL." THE PCI ALSO NOTES WITH SATISFACTION CONFIRMATION OF THE DC'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISION TO RESIST PRESSURES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TERRORISTS. IN AN EDITORIAL IN "AVANTI" ENTITLED "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE", THE SOCIALISTS ECHO THIS VIEW AND CALL FOR "NERVES OF STEEL" AGAINST ANY CONCESSION TO THE TERRORISTS.

6. COMMENT: THE LATEST BR COMMUNICATION REAFFIRMS THE TERRORIST GROUP'S STRATEGY OF REFRAINING FROM MAKING DEMANDS, SUCH AS A PRISONER EXCHANGE, OTHER THAN THROUGH THE PEN OF MORO HIMSELF. THROUGHOUT HIS DECLARATION, MORO ALLUDES TO THE IDEA OF A PRISONER EXCHANGE, AGAIN CITING THE LORENZ CASE IN THE FRG, FOR EXAMPLE, AND NOTING THAT IMPRISONED BR MEMBERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED "POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND NOT CRIMINALS. WHILE MORO'S INDICTMENT OF TAVIANI WAS THE SORT OF POLITICAL "CONFESSION" MOST OBSERVERS EXPECTED, IT IS SURPRISINGLY LACKING IN STING. INDEED, MANY COMMENTATORS NOTE THAT ITS STYLE LACKS MORO'S CHARACTERISTIC SHARPNESS AND QUESTION WHETHER THE ODD GRAMMATICAL ERRORS ("L'UNITA" LISTS FIVE) MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN DELIBERATE ON MORO'S PART TO DEMONSTRATE DURESS. WHATEVER MAY BE THE CASE, THE POLITICAL PARTIES (AND INTERESTINGLY, THE PCI IN PARTICULAR) APPEAR UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINED DISMISSAL OF MORO'S "REVELATIONS" AS POLITICALLY IRRELEVANT EXTORTIONS FROM A MAN NO LONGER MORALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS WORDS OR ACTIONS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: THE RED BRIGADES
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, IT, (MORO, ALDO)
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